

THE WEATHER.

WHEN soda crackers are damp, as though water-soaked, the indications are favorable for rain.

THE annual rainfall of St. Louis is said to be 42 inches; of London, 25; of New York, 43.

OVER one-half of the vapor in the atmosphere is within 6,000 feet of the surface of the earth.

THE seven years of drought and famine in Egypt recorded in Genesis began in the year B. C. 1708.

IN 1740 the Thames froze solid, and a fair was held on the ice. It was kept open for nine weeks.

MOST of the storm-producing strata of the air lie below the tops of the highest mountain ranges.

IN the United States the rainfall of the four seasons is about equal in amount in each season.

IN the temperate zones, the maximum of heat is attained about a month after the longest days.

IN Norway the perpetual snow line is at 2,400 feet; in the Himalayas, 16,700; in the Andes, 18,600.

SUN spots, now believed to have an effect on meteorological phenomena, were first observed in 1611.

THE ancients entertained the idea that the dew was distilled upon the earth by the moon and stars.

WHEN pigs are seen carrying straw in their mouths, the omen is favorable for a change of weather.

IN 764 the cold at Constantinople was so severe that the Black Sea was frozen for fifty miles from shore.

A RAPIDLY rising barometer indicates an unsettled condition of the weather; a gradual rise, the contrary.

A FALLING barometer while a north wind is blowing indicates snow in winter and rain or hail in summer.

POINTERS.

THE United States can turn out 360,000,000 pounds of copper yearly.

THE Governor General of Canada receives a salary of \$50,000 a year.

A PEACH orchard at Mesilla, N. M., was sold the other day for \$50,000.

THERE are more than 210,000 miles of telegraph lines in this country.

THE world's wheat crop for this year is estimated at 447,000,000 bushels.

A NEW YORK girl has the best doll house in the world. It cost \$20,000.

RAISING peppermint is the leading industry of Wayne County, New York.

THE United States sent 27,436,000 pounds of cotton to Switzerland in 1892.

THE gripmen on the Broadway cable road of New York are paid 40 cents a trip.

A SWEDISH copper mine has been worked without interruption for 800 years.

COUNTERFEIT whalebone is coming into use as the genuine article becomes scarce.

ABOUT 40,000,000 feet of timber are annually made up into matches in this country.

FOR short English typewriter girls are called typists, while the boys are simply typists.

BICYCLES are becoming so large a property interest that some Eastern cities tax them.

FRANCE has the largest public debt of any country in the world. It amounts to \$6,120,000,000.

IT is proposed to erect a \$1,000,000 plant for smelting and reducing ores at Perth Amboy, N. J.

THE United States manufactures more iron, steel, copper and lead than any other country on the globe.

OUR POPULATION.

THE swamp regions of this country and the alluvial districts of the Mississippi have 2,690,000 population, mostly colored; in the desert and semi-desert regions there are 1,463,000; in the Rocky Mountains, 1,535,000.

THE greatest preponderance of females to males is found in the District of Columbia, where the proportion is 110,242 females to 100,000 males. This is due to the extensive employment of women in the Government offices.

A POPULATION of 2 to 6 to the square mile indicates a grazing country; of 6 to 8 a farming region in an early state of development; 13 to 43, a farming district highly developed; a greater number a manufacturing region.

THE average number of persons to a family in this country has steadily decreased since 1850. At that census there were 5.55 persons to each family; now there are 4.93. The greatest decrease has been in Maine, from 5.64 to 4.40.

UNDER the treaty of Gaudalupe Hidalgo, all persons in the acquired territory who were regarded as citizens of Mexico were considered to become citizens of the United States, and thus many people of many tribes in Mexico, Arizona and California are legally citizens.

IN Missouri and Kansas the foreign element, or its immediate descendants, comprises over a fourth of the population; in Ohio, a little over a third; in Iowa and Nebraska, between a third and a half; in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, the persons of foreign birth, or their descendants of the first generation, outnumber the native population.

ROMAN AND GREEK BELIEFS.

FAMA was the goddess of gossip.

HERA PARTHENIA was worshiped by brides.

FABULINUS taught Roman children to speak.

CUTTING the hair is a sign of mourning in Persia.

TO ARTEMIS wives prayed in critical periods of life.

HARPIES were demons of death who carried off the soul.

THE Lemnads watched over the lakes and ponds of Greece.

GREEK and Roman virgins prayed to Fortuna for a good husband.

THERE are said to be over 3,000,000 deities in the Hindu mythology.

ROMAN wives whose husbands had gone to war sacrificed to Victoria.

AT one time there were temples or altars to over 30,000 deities in Athens.

THE Florides gave Greek girls such graces of mind and body as they possessed.

A GREEK calf could not be raised without the aid of twenty-seven different gods.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

A WOUND made by the tooth of the cobra species of serpent is a mere puncture and causes little swelling.

THE person bitten is killed by paralysis of the nerve centers. The danger of the rattlesnake bite, on the other hand, is from mortification of the injured part, which may proceed so far that the flesh actually putrefies.

IN regard to the mammoth remains of Canada and Alaska, Dr. G. M. Dawson notes that in the northwestern part of the continent they are abundant in, if not confined to, the limits of a great unglaciated area there, comprising nearly all Alaska and part of the adjacent Yukon district of Canada. No mastodon bones have been reported from this region.

THE toad is a higher animal than the frog, because it gives birth to little air-breathing toads, whereas the frog lays eggs that produce fish-like tadpoles. But the frog is in certain respects the most wonderful creature in the world. Think of a vegetable-eating fish with gills that turns into an air-breathing land animal, developing teeth and becoming a carnivorous quadruped. That is the life history of the frog.

FOR every degree of temperature of the air there is a maximum limit of water vapor to the cubic inch which the air is capable of bearing. So, too, for any given quantity of vapor per cubic inch, there is a temperature at which the air will hold exactly so much. This is the so-called point of saturation. Reduce the temperature below that point, and the vapor begins to condense, and assume the form of dew, fog, mist, vapor, or rain.

TESLA, the electrician, suggests that since images are recognized in the brain through the medium of the retina and the optic nerve, it may be possible for the brain to evolve an image upon the retina by a sort of reflex action when the mental picture is formed in the mind, and that possibly means may at some time be obtained by which this image upon the retina may be recognized so that the true mind reading may be effected.

SNAKES have their usefulness in the world. They are the scavengers of swamps and morasses where other animals of size are unable to penetrate or exist. It is in the tropics, of course, that serpents chiefly abound. All snakes are of tropical origin, but some species have spread into cooler latitudes. In very cool countries there are no snakes. Contrary to the popular belief, there are some snakes in Ireland, but they are very rare.

BOOK-MAKING.

THE first book to have its leaves numbered was Esop's Fables, printed by Caxton in 1484.

CHINESE printing is certainly as early as A. D. 593, books of that date being now in existence.

STEREOTYPING in the main, according to the present method, was invented in 1779 by Tilloch.

THE first English paper mill was set up in 1470, but no book was printed on English paper until 1493.

THREE-FOURTHS of the inventions used in book-binding are due to the ingenuity of American binders.

THE earliest book in which copperplate engravings were used as an adornment was issued in 1470.

IN B. C. 407 the price of wooden account books for merchants' use was a drachma each—about 18 cents.

IN B. C. 409 two pieces of papyrus, for copying an account, cost 2 drachma and 4 oboli, or nearly 46 cents.

THE first printed books had their leaves printed on one side only, the blank sides being pasted together.

SOME of the early printed books, in order to imitate manuscripts, had the initials and borders painted by hand.

IN 1873 two copies of Gutenberg's Latin Bible were sold; one on vellum brought \$3,400; one on paper, \$2,600.

THE library of Göttingen has a Bible written on palm leaves. There are 5,373 pages, each made of a single leaf.

MANY of the early wood cuts employed in books were painted over by hand, after the printing had been done.

EARTHENWARE bricks or tiles, with characters engraved or stamped on them, were undoubtedly the first books.

THE first known example of book-binding in boards, in the modern style, was a Latin psalter, in the ninth century.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

WE are never so strong as when we are thankful.

IN proportion as people love they become unselfish.

WHEN the heart speaks the whole man will say amen.

GREAT dangers surround the man whose life is aimless.

KEEP the heart right and the feet will not go far astray.

BELIEF is the rudder by which the ship of life is directed.

THE fact that we oppose the good is proof that we are bad.

IT is possible to become bad under the best circumstances.

THERE is nothing more cowardly than being afraid of the truth.

MANY of the things we consider calamities are blessings in disguise.

PEOPLE who can be spoiled by honest praise are no account to begin with.

THREE precious things that many throw away: Time, money and health.

WE grow to be what we like. If we love the pure we are sure to grow in purity.

HOW easy it is to blame some people for doing things we scarcely notice in others.

THERE is no blacker kind of selfishness than that which wears the cloak of hypocrisy.

THE devil never stays awake to watch the man who is trying to be religious because he believes it will pay him.

Rheumatic Royalty.

Royalty's knees trouble it very much. The worst kind of cramps and cramps affect this portion of its anatomy, and when King Rheumatism comes along the first thing he does is to plump down on this lap of luxury, as it were.

Queen Victoria can scarcely walk for the pain in her knee-pan and all her dutiful children are similarly inconvenienced at times by the same malady.

NATURE'S RESERVOIR.

The Vast Sea Which Underlies All the West.

THE floods which have lately visited Texas and west of San Antonio were caused by the breaking forth of that mysterious subterranean sea which underlies so large a portion of the west and has so often been tapped for fresh water through the medium of artesian wells.

If the sources of the artesian wells have been invaded by this accident, the consequences will be far-reaching and disastrous indeed. In scores and perhaps hundreds of towns in the Mississippi Valley and on the table lands of that great river's head waters, the liquid crystal treasures that lie far below the surface upon which the towns are built have been drawn upon to furnish water, not only for drinking, but for steam and other purposes.

It is a fearful thing, but in some cases, for power a well. If the artesian supply consists of a reservoir, or even of reservoirs free connected, and the Texas disaster has opened a big leak, then a noticeable decrease in the flow of the wells everywhere may be looked for, while many must go dry altogether.

If such a leak has or should really occur the nature of a vast section of the United States would undoubtedly undergo change, for not only would many towns and ranches be deprived of their water supply, but the withdrawal of the water's support from the crust of earth and rock that now lies above it would inevitably cause considerable regions to settle, thus changing the surface of the country as well as depriving it of much of its water supply. It would, in fact, produce the effect of a widespread earthquake.

YOUNG, BUT A WISE OBSERVER.

What a Little French Girl Saw at a Ball to Amuse Her.

The little French girl stood at my elbow while I wrote. She was leaning on the window sill, one little hand supporting her black head, says a writer in the New York Advertiser. Far across the lawn she could hear the rise and fall of music and the sound of laughter and of tripping feet. Red and pink lanterns swung from the balconies in the night breeze. I was very lonely. It wasn't complimentary to the little French girl, but the little French girl did not care for dancing and I did. Suddenly she gave a little laugh.

"Why are you giggling?" I asked rather crossly.

"Because the world amuses me," she murmured.

A very good reason, to be sure. But when the world amused me I never laughed. Patinette is more than clever for 10 years, and more bizarre in her notions than clever, so I asked:

"Why does it amuse you?"

"Well, par exemple, is it not bete to dance, to dance, always one way, round and round, with no aim to get nowhere, only to go round, to twirl?"

"Yes, very stupid."

"And is it not bete to stay up till 12 when one's bed is ready at 8 and one's eyes sleep?" And is it not stupid to wear a dollie to grow and long gloves when one's arms are prettier than one's neck? The world amuses me! And she laughed softly to herself, and I could not help thinking what she said was true; and I no longer envied the merry-makers, but thought anyone would envy me my solitude a deux and my intellectual companion. Some moods need only a straw to balance them.

He, Too, Had Grieved.

There lived down in Cambridge, Ind., a well-known old gentleman by the name of Josiah Nixon, who in early boyhood had acquired the habit of gross exaggeration. The habit had grown upon him so that he believed everything he said was the truth, no matter how great the exaggeration.

After he had reached the ripe old age of three-score and ten some of the deacons in the church thought it was too much like lying to pass unnoticed, and it was decided, after a great deal of consideration, that the old gentleman must be churched.

One evening while he was seated in front of his door, telling a small circle of neighbors about the way the pioneers had to live, the gate opened and the delegation of deacons filed in.

"Yes," the old gentleman was saying, "we had hard times then. I lived two years on grass and hickory bark on Sundays. We used to call Sundays 'bark days' on that account, and that's the only way we could tell when Sunday came. Bears! I see 1,200 great bears on one's on't around our camp, and I killed—"

"Uncle Josiah," broke in one of the deacons, "we have come to see you about this habit of yours. You have the unpleasant habit of forgetting the truth when talking, and we have come to remonstrate with you."

"I know it, deacon," replied the old man, as he looked around. "I know it, and I want to tell you that I have grieved over that fallin' of mine 500,000 times a day for the past 200 years."

—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Great Britain's Navy Undermanned.

The one great lesson of the British naval maneuvers which have just been concluded appears to be that the navy is undermanned, to a serious degree.

On this point all the correspondents are agreed. Although nothing like the number of ships have been commissioned which would be required in the case of a real war, it was impossible to find proper crews for them. The naval reserve, according to the London Daily Chronicle, was drawn up as it was never drawn up before, and yet ships were mobilized with about two-thirds of their proper complements, and in some cases scarcely a half of their proper complement of officers, "acting subalterns," that is to say, midshipmen—being put to keep watch and generally do the duties that ought to fall upon lieutenants.

The Daily Chronicle makes a demand for a short service system. It proposes that lads entered at from fourteen to fifteen years should pass through the navy and after from ten to twelve years' service go into the mercantile marine, with a small annual sum as a retainer.

Oscar Wilde's Reply.

A story is being told that on the death recently of the great scholar, Walter Pater, the editor of a London evening paper telegraphed to Oscar Wilde to ask him to supply some personal gossip about the dead man, who was said to be a friend of Wilde's.

Wilde, whereupon Mr. Wilde wired back: "Leave the gossip to the jackals, not the lions, of literature."

FIGHTING WITH A SHARK.

A Man Out Swimming Is Attacked by a Big Man-Eater.

Milton Shane, of Pablo, was recently swimming around outside the surf and enjoying himself in the water as only an expert swimmer can, says the Florida Times-Union. When he was about six hundred yards from the beach, floating on his back, he was attacked by a shark.

Shane immediately realized his danger and exerted every effort to fight the fish off and at the same time reach the shore. But the shark was ferocious, and as often as he refused would return again to the attack. The young man, by clear-headedness and bravery, was able in some degree to evade the monster's attacks, but not altogether, as at every dart of the fish part of the unfortunate swimmer's flesh was torn away. But it was a struggle for very life, and finally the young man reached shallow water, and then the beach, almost exhausted from exertion and loss of blood.

It was found that his thigh bore no less than twenty-six separate wounds made by the shark's teeth, which, owing to their peculiar formation, tore away the flesh at every incision. A sea captain, who examined Shane's wounds, said that judging from the marks the shark could not have been less than ten feet long.

Shane's wounds, though many and painful, are not considered dangerous.

He Met His Match.

He was all that's brave and manly. He had emulated Stanley and had traversed the wilds where white man never had set his foot before. He just gloried in a battle, for he loved to hear the rattle of the bullets and the sounding of the cannon's deadly roar.

He would fight a hundred people. He would climb the highest steeple, though he knew by that rash act he was courting certain death. He would face a raging tiger, he would swim the turbid Niger, and he'd walk up to a cannon's mouth and never bate his breath.

There was nothing that could scare him. He ventured in the harems of the wildest, fiercest pasha that ever lived on Turkey's coast. In a graveyard he had wandered late at night, and there had pondered if it could be his fortune just to see a real ghost.

He was brave beyond all question. There had never been a suggestion that the stories of his boldness were not made up of the truth; but, alas! his courage failed him when a rotten molar ailed him, for he didn't have the nerve to let a dentist pull his tooth. —New York World.

There Are Others.

It is a pleasant world, and there are no end of good people in it. But the seamy side is there, too, and the stories that come from that side now and then are such as to make one ashamed to be happy, almost. "I want to see my washerwoman when I heard she was ill," says a Boston lady, in the Transcript, "and found she had been in bed for nearly a week. Her husband is in the habit of coming home very drunk, and throws things at her and beats her. This time it was worse than usual. She had been very badly pounded. I found that it had happened many times, yet she supported him and her two children by washing. I indignantly told her that she ought to leave him and live in peace with her children. 'Ah, ma'am,' she answered, 'they're worse than him.'"

Mixed in His English.

An English paper publishes the following letter, addressed by an Indian native soldier to his commanding officer: "Honored sir: Having been amputated from my family for some years and as I have complaints of the abdomen, coupled with great constipation of the intestines, and prostration of all desire for work, with also the disgorging of my dinner, I hope your highness will excuse my attending at orderly room for nine or ten days more, and in duty bounds shall ever pray for the ability of your temper and the enlargement of your family."

The Slippery Razor Clam.

Mollusks are not supposed to be racers, but the razor clams, which abound on the Cape shore, is about as hard to catch as a weasel asleep. They have a foot that they project at the other end of a long, narrow shell, and by means of it can work their way through the sand with astonishing rapidity. Even if you approach so carefully that the jar of your footfall doesn't alarm it, and if by a quick movement you seize the projecting end, you are not likely to pull out the clam, though you crush the end of the shell in your fingers.

A Musical Dinner Service.

An American woman has lately received what must be termed to most original of wedding presents. It is a musical dinner service, of which each plate begins to play a tune when put upon the table. The soup plates are accented with marches as suited the temper of the guests at that moment of solemnity, but as dinner progresses and the wine and courses do their enlivening work, the harmonies brighten accordingly, till at dessert the covers are ringing out the maddest of polkas and galops.

Blasting the Palisades.

Until recently, the Palisades of the lower Hudson have escaped the hands of the contractors and quarrymen, although there are few spots in this country where richer deposits of granite are found. Now, however, a firm of contractors, by expending dynamite, 3,000 pounds at a time, is making a huge excavation in the front of the Palisades, which will in a short time transform them from things of beauty to ordinary stone quarries.

Long-Distance Race on Stilts.

A race recently took place in France which was as novel as it was original. The contestants, mounted on stilts, performed the feat of walking from Bordeaux to Biarritz, a distance of over 250 miles, in a little over four days. The winner, aside from rather cramped legs, declared he felt as well as ever.

Growth of the Orange Industry.

The growth of the orange industry in Florida has increased from a production of 600,000 boxes in 1885 to 3,500,000 for the season just closed, and, according to conservative estimates, the combined crop will be fully 5,000,000 boxes, of which over 4,000,000 will be marketed.

HARDWARE.

CORNER

Don't Poke

The Fire—you don't have to—open your draft, shake the grate gently—never open the door only to put in fuel. The Round Oak is air tight—shut the draft, you stop the fire. Open it a little it gives you a steady, even heat—perfect control, that's what you have—a little practice and you understand why we are enthusiastic—you are too—there are none like it. See the name on the leg. Sold only by

KETCHAM & WILSON

Who can show you many Bargains in

SEASONABLE = HARDWARE.

COME AND SEE US.

SPECIAL SALE!

B.—QUICK.

C.—SHARP.

The Sand of Time is swiftly running and the

Great Bargain Sale

THE MODEL

will soon be past, we are determined to close out all

Dry Goods,

NOTIONS,

Boots and Shoes,

In order to make room for our

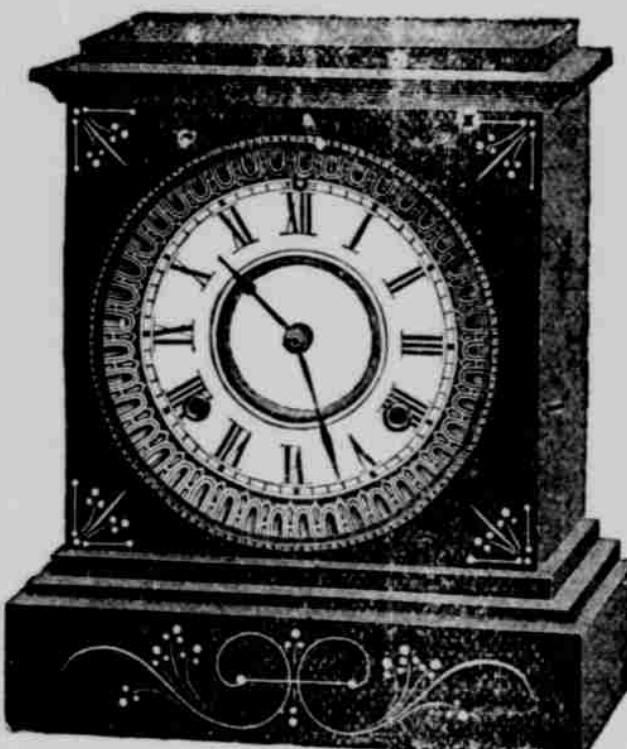
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GROCERIES,

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We have the largest assortment of Watches and Clocks in the county, and

Our Prices Sell the Goods.

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